

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, AOB OAU

SUBJECT: PUBLIC COMMENT ON OAU SUMMIT

REF: A) STATE 8555, B) NIAMEY 0180

1. COMMENTS AT AIRPORT BY PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE ON RETURN FROM OAU CONFERENCE WHICH EMBASSY REPORTED IN REF B ARE ONLY OFFICIAL STATEMENTS REGARDING ANGOLA APPEARING IN NIGER MEDIA TO DATE. BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER CONFERENCE PRESS AND RADIO HAVE LIMITED SELVES ALMOST ENTIRELY TO WIRE SERVICE, READ AFP, REPORTS. HOWEVER NEWS SELECTION AND FEW STORIES ORIGINATING LOCALLY CLEARLY FAVOR MPLA.

2. NIGER MEDIA ARE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED AND SELDOM EDITORIALIZE ON INTERENATIONAL EVENTS. EXCEPTION WAS EDITORIAL IN JANUARY 12 ISSUE WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE "SAHEL HEBDO" JUSTIFYING GOVERNMENT'S RECOGNITION MPLA. ARGUMENTS GIVEN WERE CLOSELY ATTUNED KOUNTCHE'S OWN STATEMENT THAT SOUTH AFRICA INTERVENTION FORCED NIGER'S HAND. EDITORIAL STATED "SOUTH AFRICA HAS VIOLATED A BROTHTER AFRICAN COUNTRY. TO EMPHASIZE ITS TOTAL DISAPPROVAL OF THIS INTERVENTION AND OTHE ATTITUDE OF THOSE WHO REQUESTED IT AND
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PERMITTED IT, THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL AND THE

GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO RECOGNIZE THE MPLA...BUT OUR
COUNTRY LEAVES THE DOOR OPEN TO ANY COMPRIMISE--
TO ANY AFRICAN SOLUTION WHICH IS REACHED AT THE
ADDIS ABABA SUMMIT. THAT IS TO SAY THAT OUR
RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA AND ITS GOVERNMENT IS
WITHOUT EXCLUSIVITY OR HOSTILITY TO OTHERS.
IN PARTICULAR IT DOES NOT EXCLUDE THE EVENTUAL
FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY."
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